

REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed July 29, 2002 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Claims 1 - 60 are currently pending in the application.

Applicants have made a minor amendment to claim 48 to clarify the invention.

Claims 1 - 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as containing subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains. Claims 1 - 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In rejecting claims under section 112, first and second paragraphs, the Action alleges that common color data interchange format is not defined in the present application. On the contrary, an aspect of the present invention, as described at page 1, lines 8 - 11, is to provide a color data interchange for a plurality of electronic devices such that color information can be communicated between different devices and industries. As described at page 3, lines 11-14, a common color data interchange format allows color devices to conveniently exchange color data in a common format without the need to translate between color spaces because of different data representations in various devices. That is, a common color data interchange format is an intermediate (as opposed to destination/final) color format. The common color data interchange format is an intermediate color space that is used to forward color information between various color devices and only translate to a final or destination color space as a final step. Not surprisingly, the action has correctly interpreted the meaning of the phrase “common color data interchange format” on page 5 of the action. The present application contemplates at least three color data formats where the common color data format is an intermediate format used for exchanging color data information among and between color devices. A source color format is translated to the intermediate “common color data interchange format” and forwarded perhaps to and through computer systems toward a destination color peripheral device using the common color data interchange format. Upon arriving proximate to the destination color peripheral device, the intermediate “common color data interchange format” is translated to the destination color format. In light of the above, applicants submit that the specification provides sufficient support for

the term “common color data interchange format” and requests withdrawal of the section 112 rejections.

Claims 1 - 9, 14 - 17, 22 - 26, 31 - 35, 40 - 50 and 55 - 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,946,113 Pritchett (hereinafter “Pritchett”). Claims 10, 18, 27, 36 and 51 - 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Pritchett in view of Stokes and Yoda. Claims 11 - 13, 19 - 21, 28 - 30 and 37 - 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Pritchett. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The invention of independent claims 1, 15, 23, 24, 32, 42, 48, 51-55 and 58-60 calls for, among other features, mapping color data values to or representing color values in a gamut expanded color space, *the gamut expanded color space being a common color data interchange format*. In each of the aforementioned rejections, the Action alleges that Pritchett shows a gamut expanded color space being a common color data interchange format.

While describing a system and method for converting a color from a first color space to a second color space, Pritchett merely discloses mapping from a source color space to a destination color space. In sharp contrast to the invention claimed, Pritchett neither teaches nor suggests using a common color data interchange format (intermediate color data format) such that all computer systems and devices receive the same color information. With a common color data interchange format as called for in the claims, the source color format and the destination color format may be any color format and are not limited to translations between a YCC color and a corresponding RGB color space as described in Pritchett. Pritchett clearly converts between a source color data format and a destination color data format. Pritchett however, cannot forward the color data information to yet another device(s) without another translation and thus does not provide any teaching or suggestion of a common color data interchange format. In this subsequent translation, the destination color data format of the first translation of Pritchett becomes the source color data format of the second translation, thereby losing additional color accuracy in the process.

Thus, contrary to the action’s assertion, Pritchett is wholly devoid of a teaching of the claimed features of mapping color data values to or representing color values in a

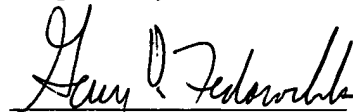
gamut expanded color space, *the gamut expanded color space being a common color data interchange format*. Further, none of the other applied references, Stokes and Yoda remedy the defects noted with respect to Pritchett. Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims are neither anticipated by Pritchett nor rendered obvious by Pritchett alone, or in combination with Stokes and Yoda, for at least the above reasons, and further in view of the additional novel features recited therein. For example, independent claims 55 and 57 – 60 specifically recite mapping or representation of color information from a source color format to a common color data interchange format and the conversion from the intermediate “common color data interchange format” to a destination color format. For example, claim 55 recites “converting said gamut expanded color space to a color space of a destination peripheral device”. Pritchett neither teaches nor suggests any conversion beyond a second color format. That is, Pritchett cannot adapt to a later added device.

Also, all of the claims which depend from the independent claims directly or indirectly are considered patentably distinct from the applied art for the same reasons as their respective base claim and further in view of the novel features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing and for at least the above reasons, it is submitted that claims 1 – 60 are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and the rejections.

Should the Examiner believe an interview would advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: October 17, 2002

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claim:

48. (Twice Amended) A method for representing color images in a color management system in one of a gamut expanded RGB color space and a gamut expanded RGBA color space and further representing at least one of super transparent and super opaque colors using an alpha channel, comprising the steps of:

representing color data values as perceptually visible super transparent/super opaque data values in a color space in, ~~wherein said gamut expanded color space is a~~ common color data interchange format; and

labeling an image determined by the perceptually visible super transparent/super opaque data values as a super transparent/super opaque color space image.